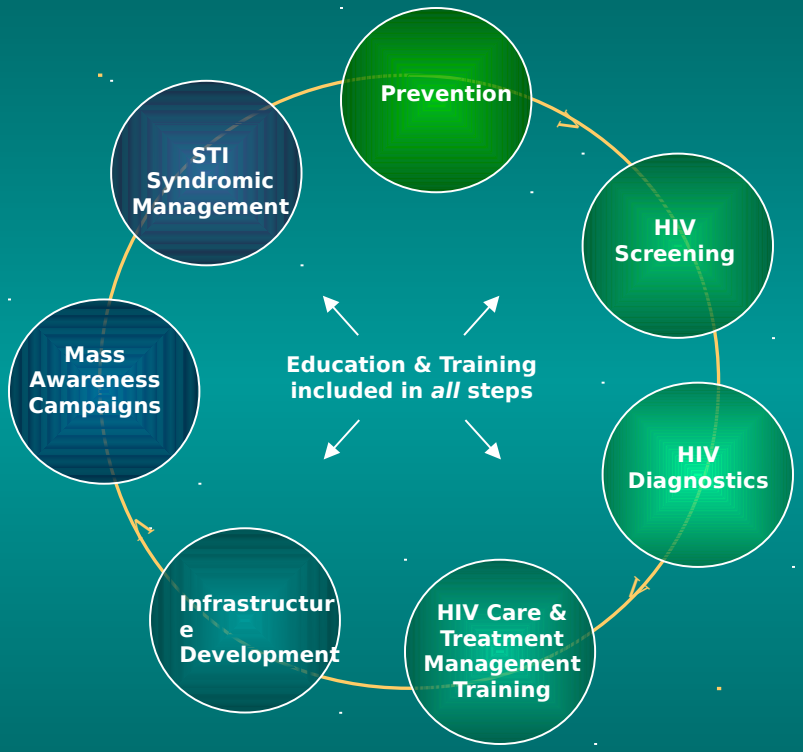
HIV Prevention in a Military Setting



Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP)

Naval Health Research Center

Components of HIV Prevention in a Military Setting

- Develop plans with the military to achieve its HIV prevention goals
- Mass awareness campaigns
- Education and training (instructor training, peer education, workplace)
- Behavioral change communication (BCC)
- HIV screening [prevalence, voluntary counseling & testing (VCT)]
- HIV/AIDS surveillance
- Sexually transmitted infection (STI) syndromic management
- Occupational exposure prevention
- Policies and procedures for HIV-positive military
- Long-term treatment and HIV management

Develop Plans With Military to Achieve Their HIV Prevention Goals

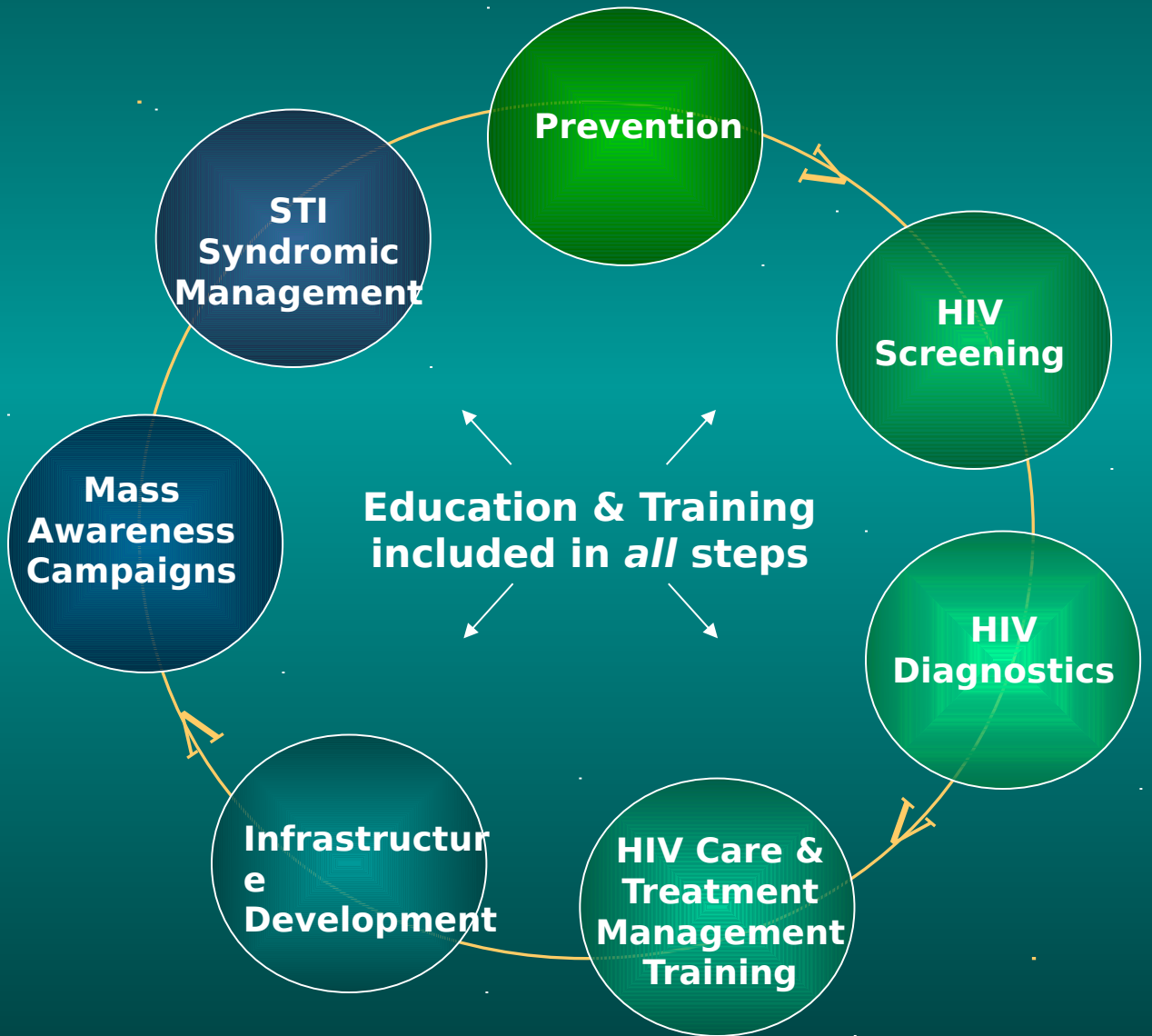
- Make contact with appropriate personnel within the military
- Create liaison with US in-country Embassy
- Work with the individual country to identify its needs and potential solutions
- Work with other programs such as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Global AIDS Program, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and US Agency for International Development

HIV/AIDS Policies

Policies should encompass the following components:

- Medical readiness
- Social norms of community
- Training
- Prevention
- Confidentiality
  - Human rights
- Testing
- Surveillance
- Care

HIV/AIDS Prevention → Develop a Strategic Plan



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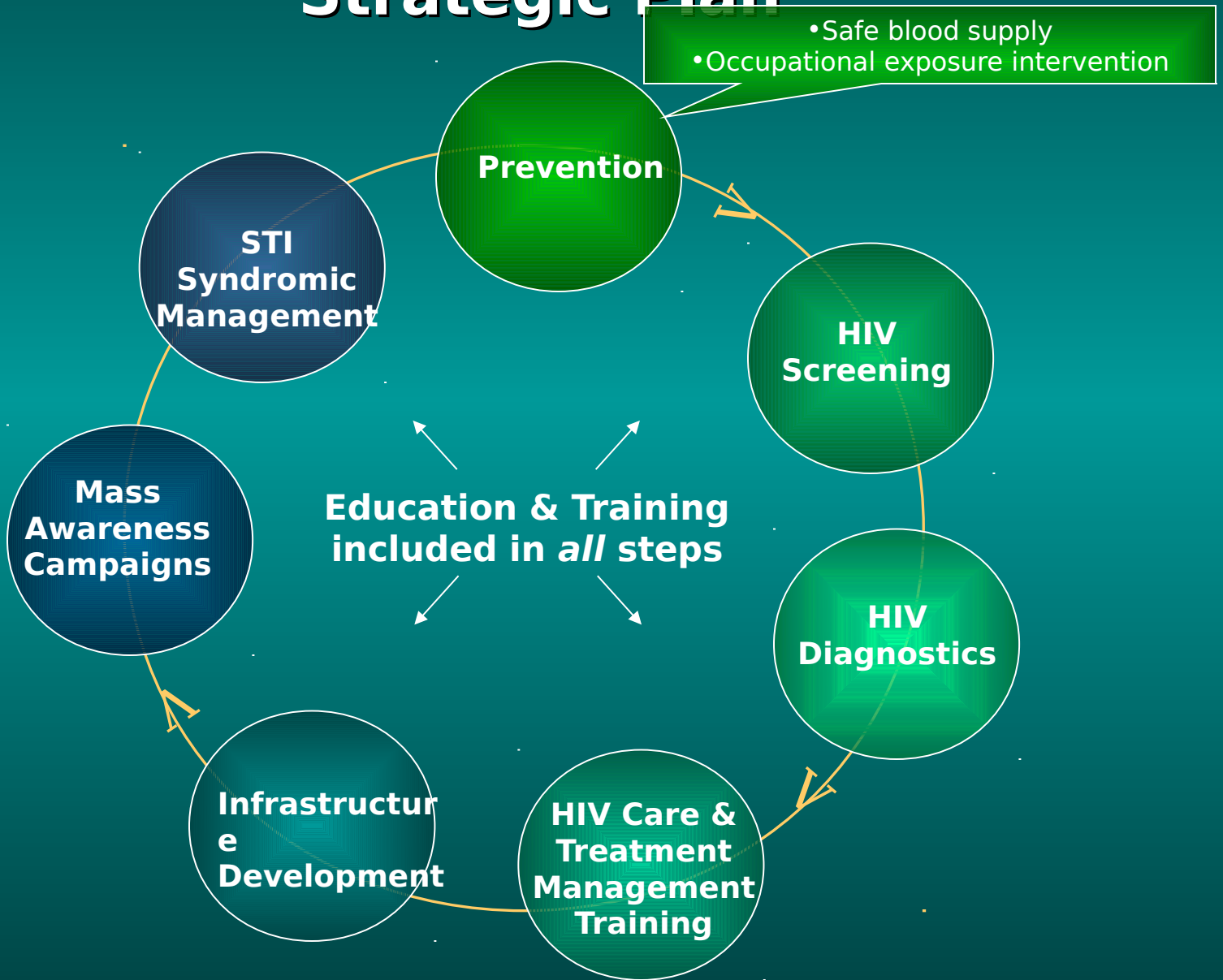

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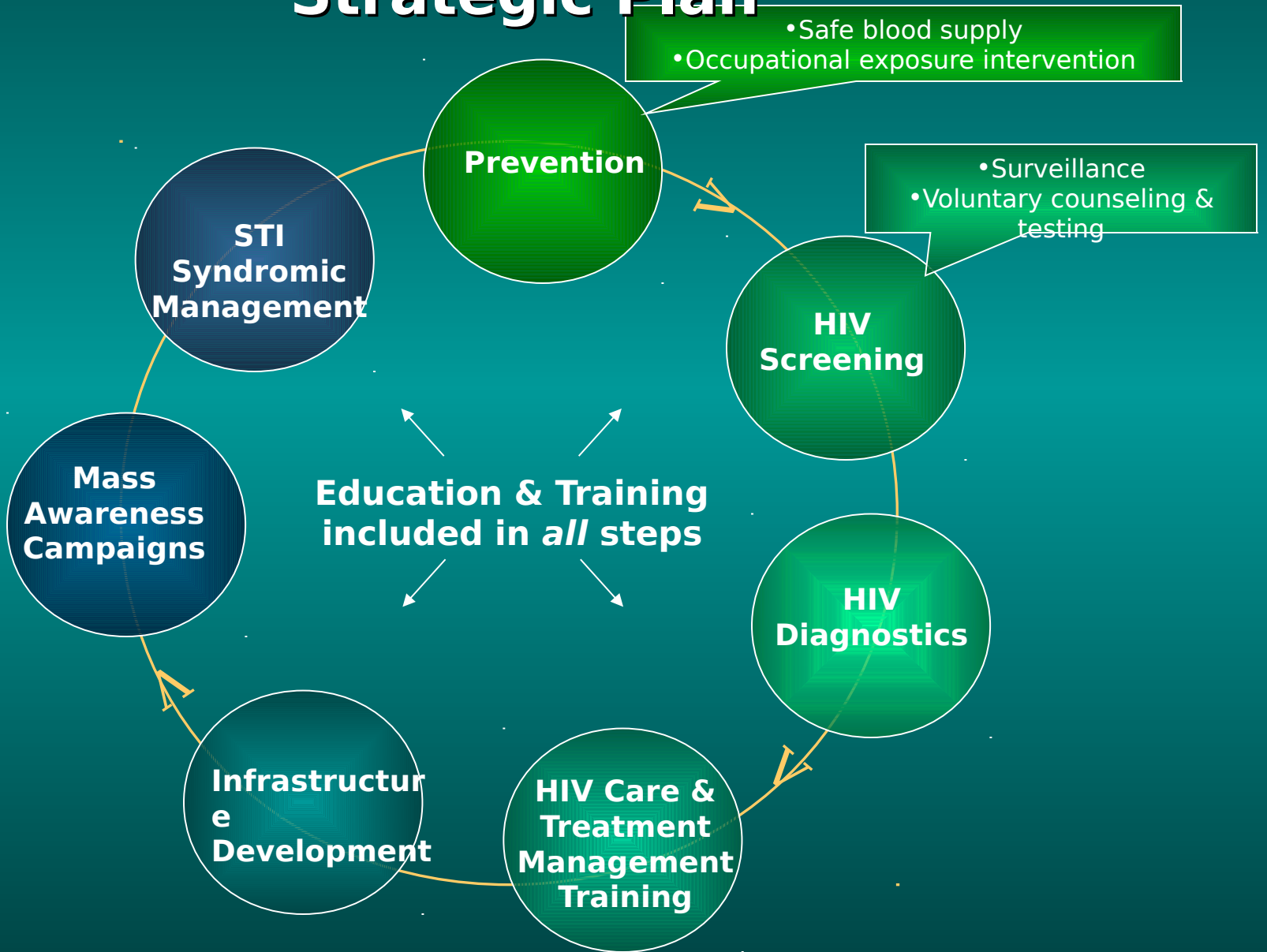

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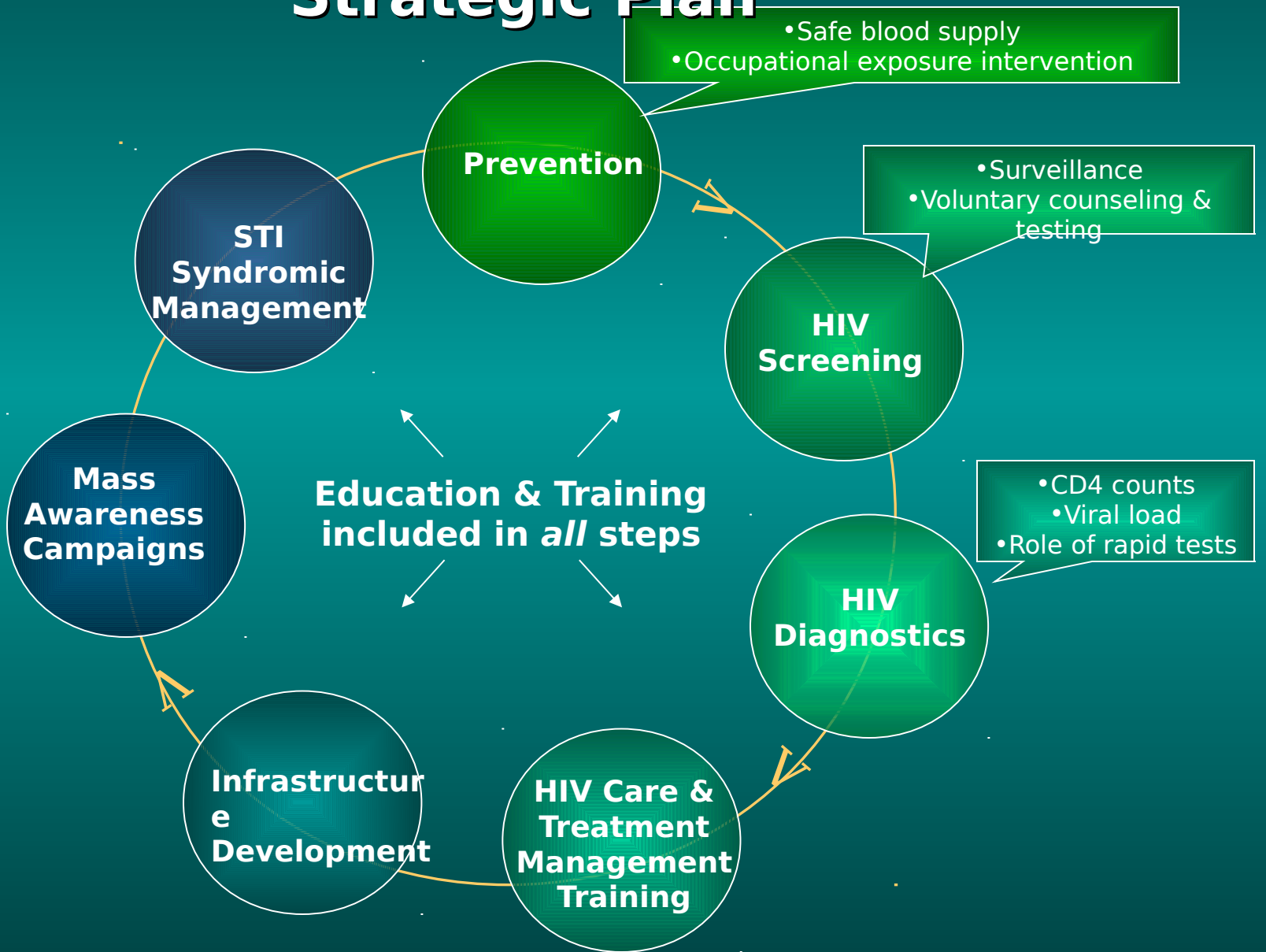

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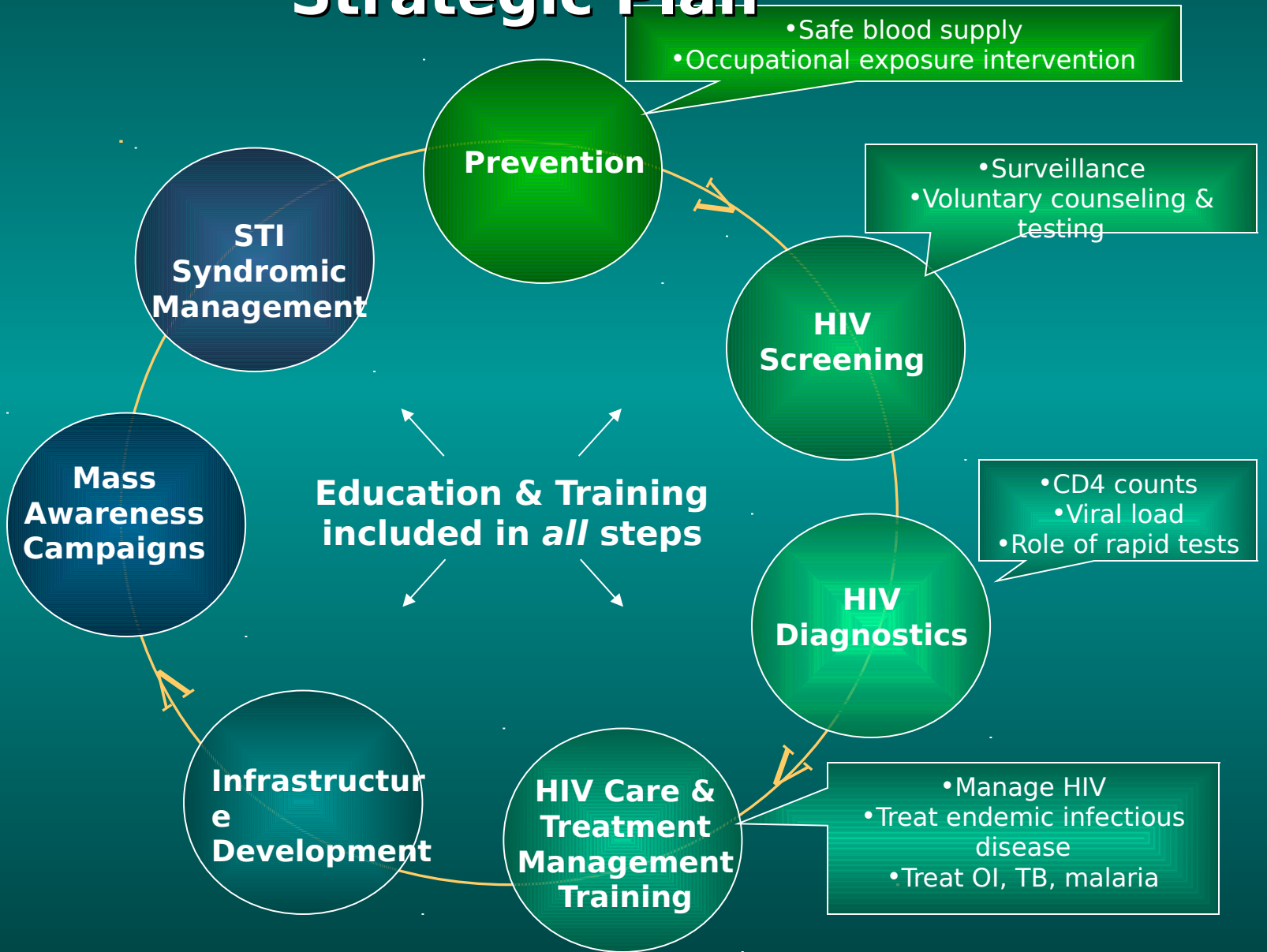

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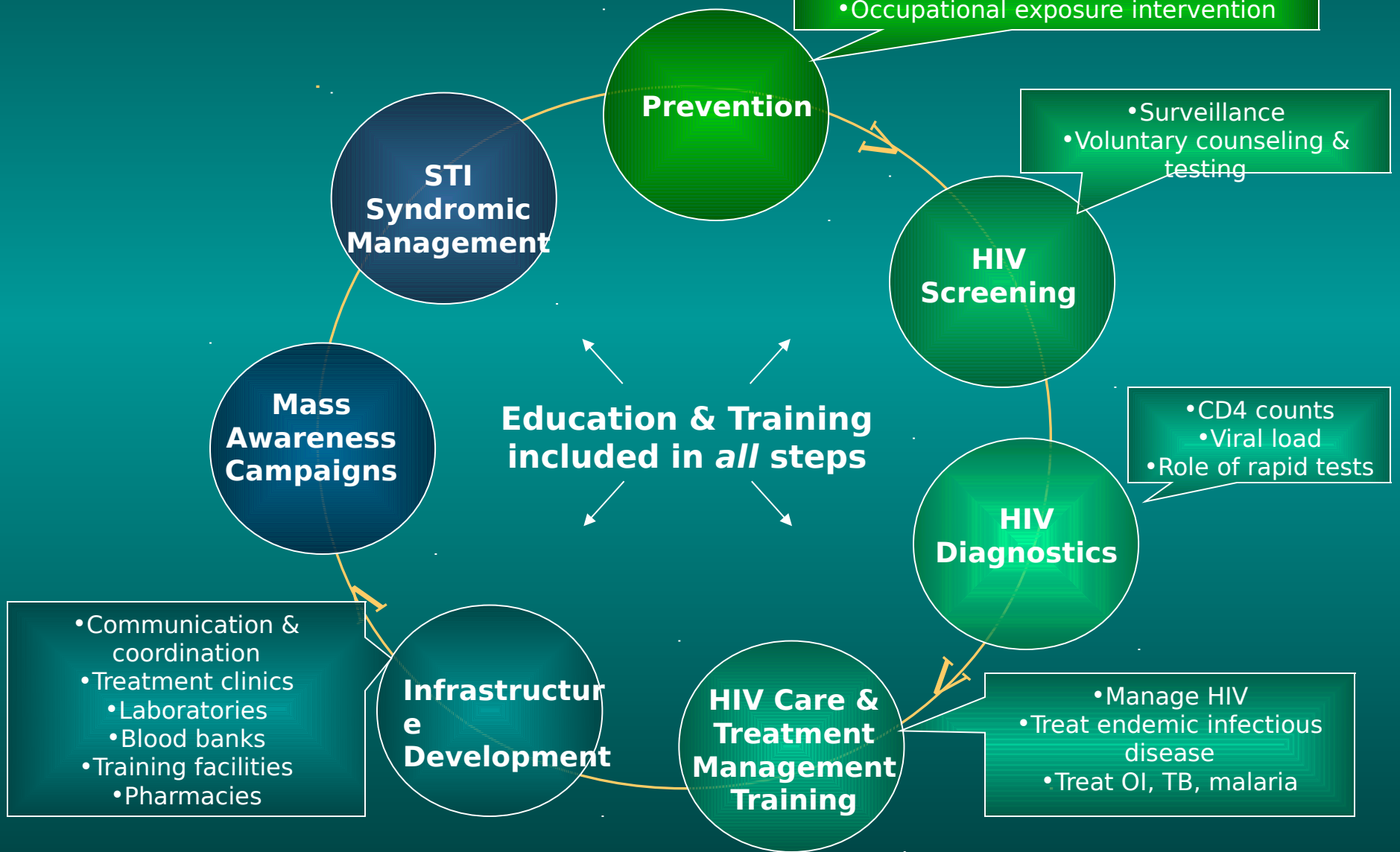

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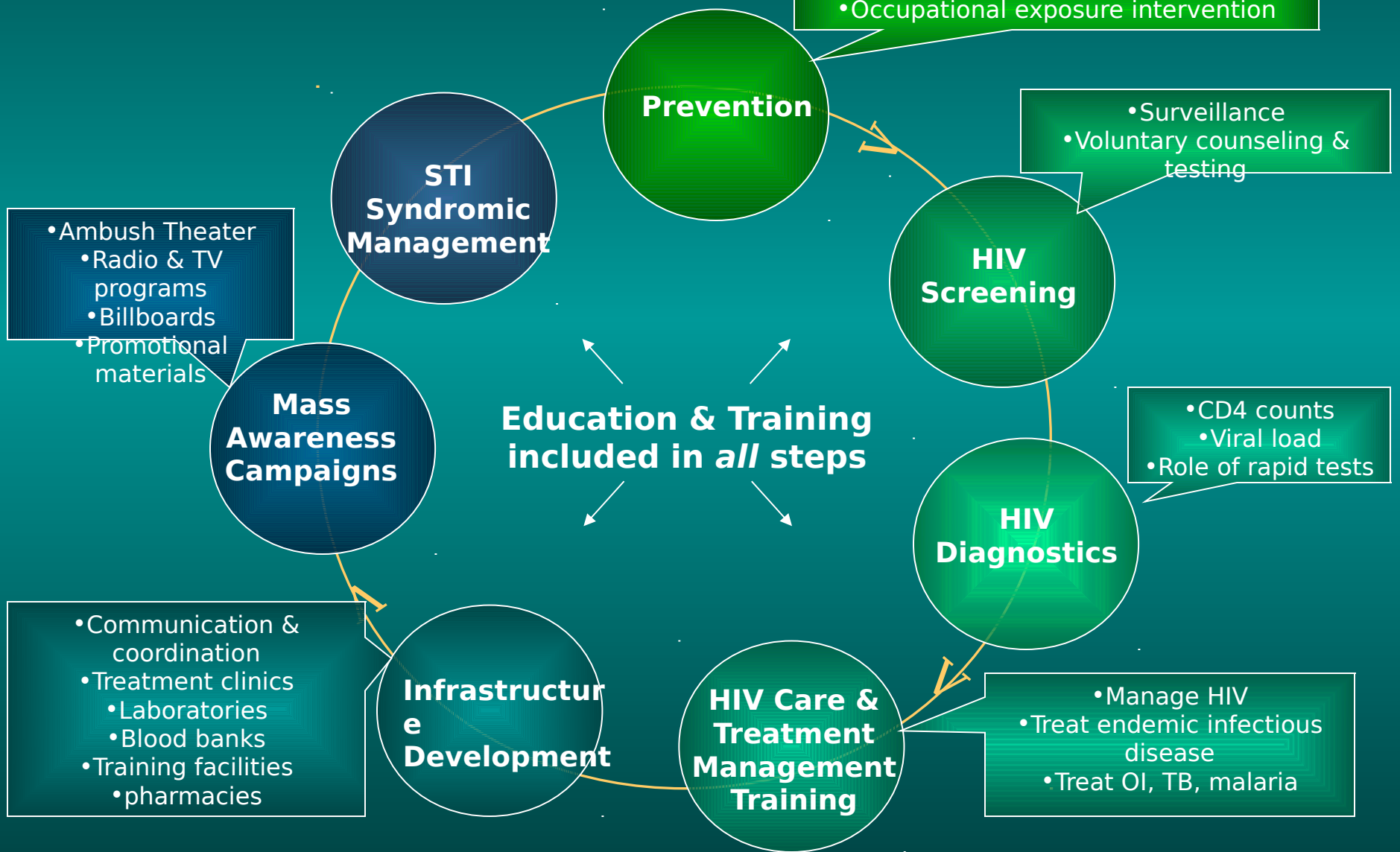
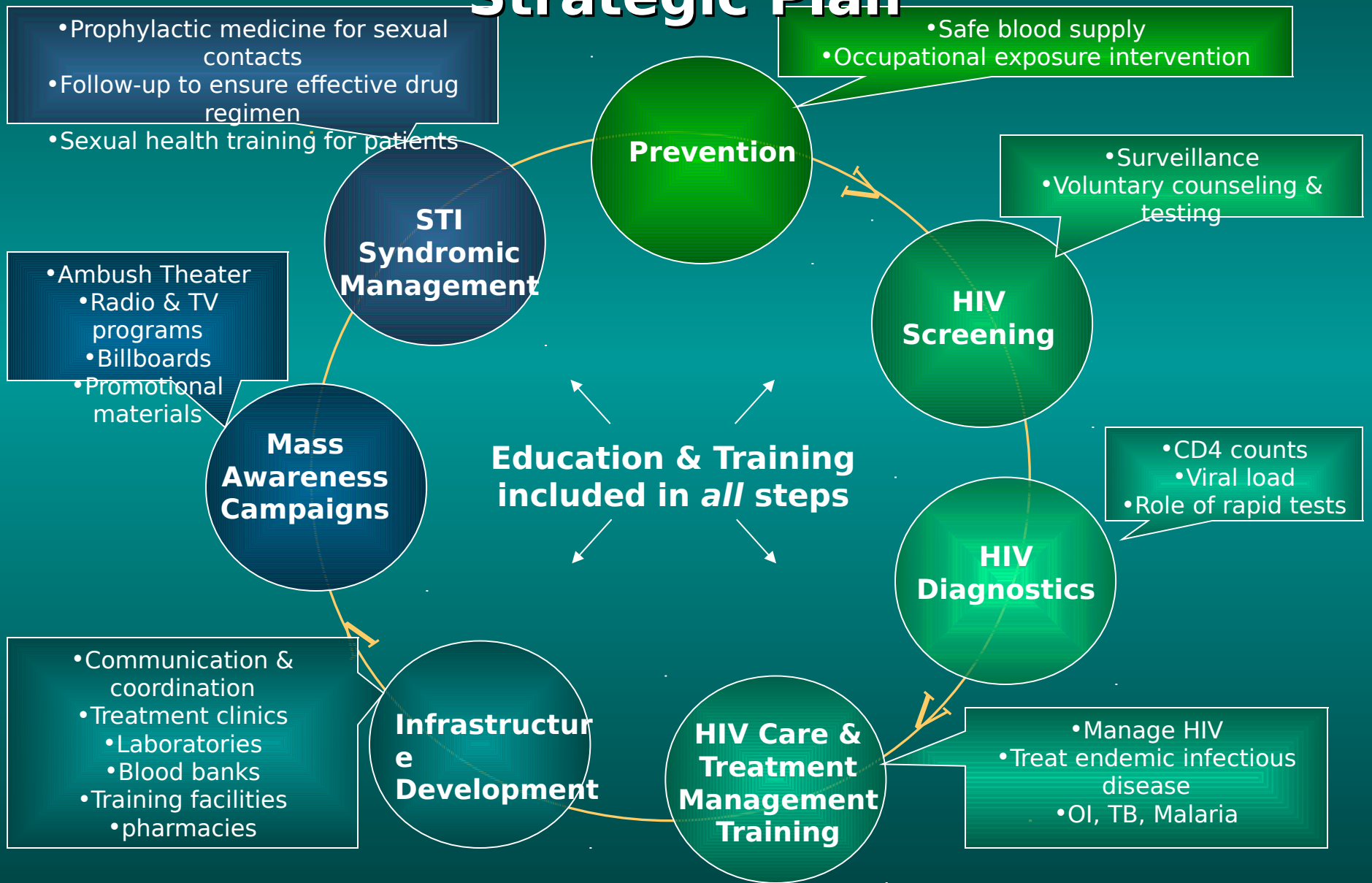


HIV/AIDS Prevention Develop a Strategic Plan



Education

- Identify local social norms & customs
- Provide:
  - Learning aids (flip charts/diagrams/fact sheets)
  - Visual aids (photographs/posters)
- Encourage & facilitate:
  - Story-telling (sharing experiences)
  - Group discussions
  - Continuing education

Provide Training for:

- Master trainers
- Peer educators
- Drama troupes
- Counselors
- Nurses
- Physicians
- Laboratory personnel
- Pharmacy personnel
- Chaplains
- Social workers
- Senior military staff
- Uniformed personnel

PREVENTION

Occupational Exposure
Intervention & Prevention

Hospital staff and patients are at high risk for HIV infection, therefore:

- Assess:
  - Infection control practices
  - Facilities for tuberculosis (TB) isolation and ventilation
- Provide mandatory training of health care personnel
- Consider logistics:
  - Design efficient patient care areas (e.g., where to place sharps disposal containers)
  - Identify solutions for sharps and hazardous waste disposal (such as syringes, scalpels)
    - What kind of disposal container is most appropriate to contain waste/sharp
    - Where to place sharps (clean & dirty) so personnel are least likely to incur occupational exposures
  - Maintain ample stock of protective supplies (gloves, biohazard waste, sharps disposal)
- Decrease multiple uses of sharps
- Increase hand washing
- Develop & schedule regular equipment maintenance & waste disposal routines

HIV Screening

(prevalence, surveillance: active duty & recruits)

- Requires personnel who are properly trained and educated
- Consider logistics: test kits, locations, building, clinics that will ensure confidentially
- Develop policy to standardize and ensure quality of:
  - Laboratory testing
  - Counseling guidelines
  - Personnel training
- Offer & encourage counseling upon screening
- Testing options for HIV positives:
  - HIV rapid testing
  - ELISA testing
  - CD4 counts
  - Behavioral risk surveys to understand risk behavior
- Provide follow-up for positives

Surveillance

Develop surveillance tools:

- Conduct seroprevalence survey
- Use data to:
  - Estimate HIV infection prevalence in each military
  - Map prevalence trends over time
  - Estimate resource burden
  - Create annual reports
  - Set up a sentinel population

Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT)

- Ensure privacy of information/confidentially
- Be sensitive & aware of the potential discrimination & stigmatization the patient may encounter
- Ensure patient receives test results
- Provide & encourage counseling

Behavior Change Communication (BCC)

Multi-level tool to promote and sustain risk-reducing behavior change in individuals and communities via tailored health messages in a variety of communication channels

BCC can help:

- Increase safe sex practices
- Reduce stigma
- Increase demand for VCT, mother-to-child transmission
- Increase clinic visits for STIs, opportunistic infections (OIs), TB

Safe Blood Supply

- Provide personnel training
- Develop screening algorithm for blood supply usage
- Develop infrastructure capabilities

Mass Awareness Campaigns

- Provide media such as “Ambush Theater” that are more likely to be accepted in the community
- Develop mass media programming to include military-specific characters and themes
- Consider culture-specific language, behaviors, and perceptions when designing campaigns
- Identify myths and misconceptions
- Communication tools that can be utilized for mass awareness include:
  - Radio
  - Films/video
  - Posters
  - Newspapers
  - Bulletin boards
  - Training events

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Communication & Coordination

- Establish phone and e-mail communication
- Improve Internet technology support
- Establish office so that information can be updated and communicated to all members of the organization
- Specify job descriptions and tasks for which each staff member/organization is responsible
- Limit number of levels of management

Department of Defense-Executed HIV/AIDS Rudimentary Civilian Construction/Refurbishment Projects

- Design & construct:
  - HIV/AIDS education & training facilities
  - Clinics, especially VCT centers
  - HIV/AIDS diagnostic laboratories
  - Blood banks & blood collection centers
  - Supply warehouses solely supporting HIV/AIDS programs (e.g., climate-controlled, secure storage for antiretroviral pharmaceuticals)
  - Small AIDS treatment and care hospitals
  - Other (considered on a case-by-case basis)

Laboratory Equipment & Procedures

- Laboratory tests & equipment may include:
  - Rapid test kits
  - ELISA machine
  - CD4 counter
  - Microscope
  - Magnetic bead CD4 cell separation materials
- Develop testing algorithm to ensure accuracy of positive HIV test results

HIV CARE and MANAGEMENT

HIV Diagnostics & Staging Capability

- Provide laboratory infrastructure and equipment
- Provide personnel training
- Conduct HIV disease monitoring (CD4 lymphocyte count, viral load, consider alternative options in resource-poor settings)
- Consider role of rapid tests (evaluation of rapid tests as available)

STI Syndromic Management

Coinfection of STI increases likelihood of HIV transmission & acquisition:

- Syndromic management reduces HIV infection rates & provides an opportunity for HIV prevention education

Provide preventive medicine:

- Establish programs to contact and test past sexual contacts of known STI patients
- Know current pharmacological data, sensitivities, most-effective drug regimens
- Set up clinics where patients may be followed up for progress
- Provide intensive sexual health training for STI patients

HIV Care and Treatment Management Training

- Provide:
  - Management of HIV
  - Treatment of endemic infectious diseases in HIV seropositives
  - Treatment for OIs, TB, and malaria